

ORIGIN/ACTION		
ARA	REP	AP
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
PM		5/5
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	16	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
26	7	3
	NS	3

AIRGRAM

A-055

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

TAGS: PINS, GT

EO 11652: XGDS 2

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: 10 APRIL 75

SUBJECT: Internal Security: Monthly Report of Incidents of Political Violence, March 1975

REF :

SUMMARY: The number of press-reported incidents of political violence increased to 31 from February's record low of 25. No incidents were attributable to the PGT or the GOG. Violence in the Eastern region, much of it involving comisionados militares, accounted for more than one half of the March incidents. End summary.

I. Statistics. Thirty-one incidents of political violence were reported in March, a slight increase from February's 4-1/2 year record low of 25. There were no incidents attributable to the PGT or the GOG. Violence in the Eastern region accounted for more than half of the incidents (17 of 31), while the South Coast was fairly quiet, with only 6 incidents reported. There were 17 killings, 7 people wounded, 1 grenade attack, and one frustrated dynamiting during March. Of those killed, 6 showed signs of torture. March's victims included former President Arana's father-in-law, several comisionados militares, and the son of the former Chief of Detectives.

II. Unattributed Incidents. Fifteen of the 31 incidents in March took place in Chiquimula Department. At least five of those 15 involved comisionados militares. Most spectacular was the March 24 murder of three comisionados in Jocotán. The three were kidnapped, tortured, and killed, allegedly by a group of men wearing olive green.

FORM 4-62 D5-323

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH.

REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

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Among the other incidents in Chiquimula were the wounding of the son of the former chief of detectives on March 9, the death of three persons when a fragmentation grenade exploded in their home on March 29, and a grenade explosion outside the home of former President Arana's father-in-law on March 30.

Comment: None of these cases is apparently related to any of the others, and there is nothing to indicate that anything besides local politics prompted them. A high ranking National Police detective told us the killings were the product of a vendetta between those who had been favored under Arana with patronage jobs they were now losing and others who have been favored under Laugerud but would like more. End comment.

In Guatemala City, police arrested three men who were preparing to dynamite the electric plant serving Guatemala City. At the time of their capture, the men were reportedly placing sticks of dynamite.

Comment: Had they been successful, projected brownouts in Guatemala City would have come a great deal sooner. End comment.

CNA

MELOY

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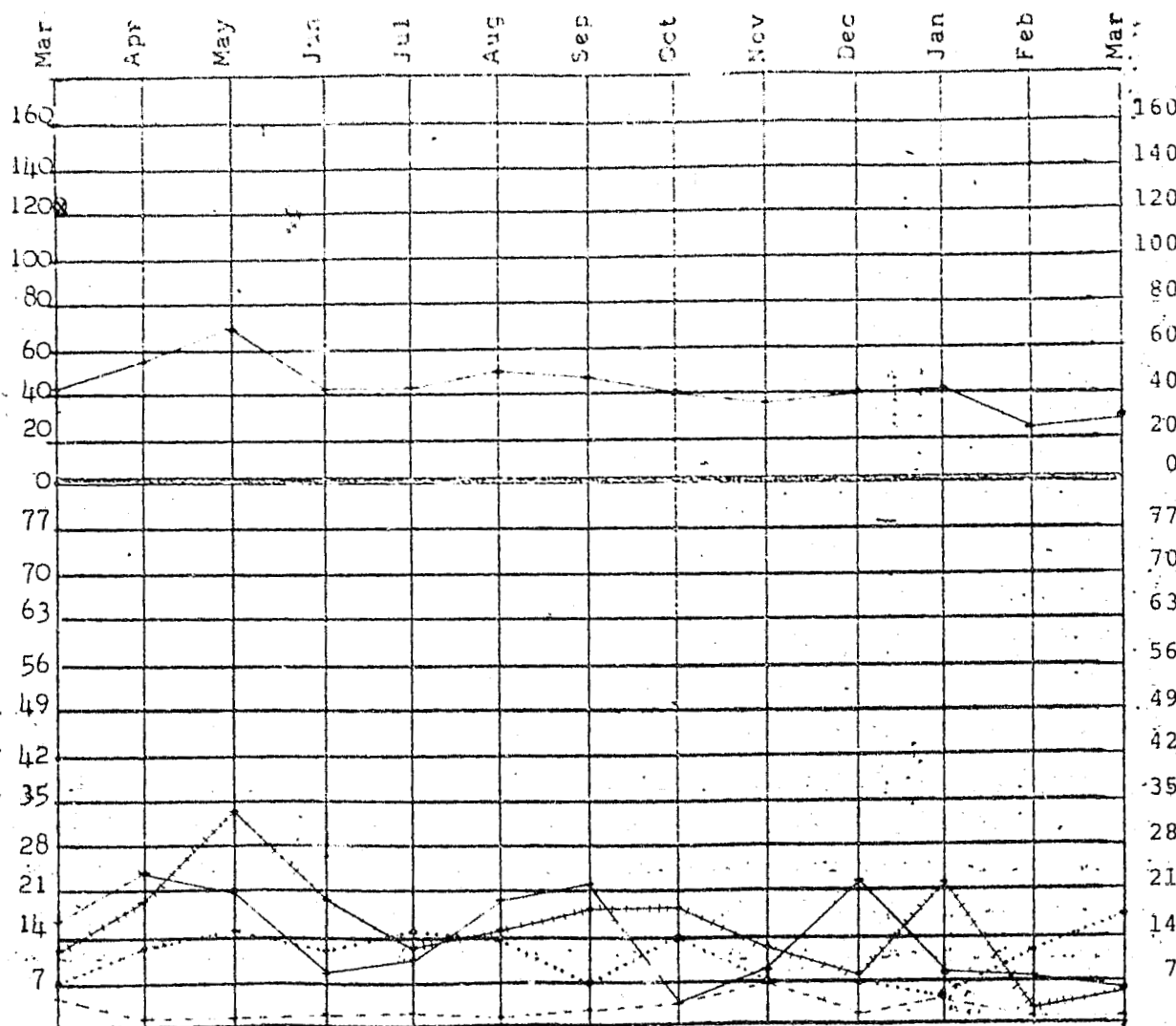
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Enclosure

A-055

MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION - MARCH 1974 to MARCH 1975



TOTAL

For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings, and deaths, all of which appear to be politically motivated.

Capital area - Sacatepequez, Guatemala

South Coast - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa

Eastern Region - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten

Highlands - Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola